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Syria

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NSC BRIEFING

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13 July 1955

SOVIET ASSURANCES OF SUPPORT TO SYRIA

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I.



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B. While Azm notorious for twisting statements, no reason to doubt substance of this report, in view of recent history Soviet assurances to Syria.

II. Story of Soviet assurances began last March, in context Turkish-Iraqi pressure to keep Syria out of hostile Arab pact proposed by Egypt.

A. Highlights of this story:



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6. 10 May--Soviets indicate intention appoint military attachés in Syria and Lebanon.

B. Soviet propaganda has kept up interest in this topic, but no new official statements until reported Molotov meeting with Azm in San Francisco.

III. Conclusion--In "supporting" Syria, USSR probably would not go beyond diplomatic efforts and sale of arms if Syrians desired

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